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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/970,437	10/03/2001	Antoni S. Gozdz	APP 1431-US	4278

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EXAMINER

LEADER, WILLIAM T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1742

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/970,437

Applicant(s)

GOZDZ, ANTONI S.

Examiner

William T. Leader

Art Unit

1742

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Receipt of the papers filed on December 27, 2004, is acknowledged. Claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 8-19 remain withdrawn from consideration.
2. In view of applicant's Remarks, the rejections of record are withdrawn.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 5 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. In the papers filed on December 27, 2004, applicant amended claim 1 to recite that the separator member is a paper comprising cellulose. Claim 5 includes a Markush group which recites different types of paper from which the paper of claim 1 is selected. The group includes cellulose. Since cellulose is now recited in claim 1, it appears that claim 5 no longer further limits claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Maletin et al (6,697,249).

6. The Maletin et al patent is directed to a supercapacitor which is an electrochemical cell system. As shown in figure 1, the capacitor includes opposed planar electrode members. These electrodes are made of a matrix of polymer and SNC powder (column 7, lines 27-63). The electric double layer capacitor includes a porous, ion-permeable, insulating material separator interposed between electrodes. The separator may be made from a cellulose separator paper (column 12, lines 22-30). Thus, all elements recited in claim 1 are taught by Maletin et al.

7. With respect to claims 2 and 3, Maletin et al disclose that a plasticizer may be included. The plasticizer improves the working range of the electrode mixture (column 8, lines 29-36). With respect to claim 5, as noted above, the separator may be made from a cellulose separator paper. With respect to claim 6, the polymer binder may be vinylidene fluoride or tetrafluoroethylene (column 7, lines 50-54).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maletin et al (6,697,249) in view of Gozdz et al (5,552,239)

10. Maletin et al is taken as above. Claim 7 differs from Maletin et al by reciting particular plasticizer compositions while claim 4 differs by reciting that the plasticizer is incorporated in the separator. The Gozdz et al patent is directed to an electrochemical cell system in the form of a rechargeable battery. The cell may include polymer matrix electrodes. Gozdz et al disclose plasticizer materials such as propylene carbonate. Gozdz et al also disclose the addition of plasticizer to the separator. See column 2, line 57 to column 3, line 8.


11. The prior art of record is indicative of the level of skill of one of ordinary skill in the art. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to have utilized a plasticizer such as propylene carbonate as the plasticizer composition in Maletin et al because it is effective in this application as shown by Gozdz et al, and to have included plasticizer in the separator of Maletin et al as shown by Gozdz et al because the properties of the separator would have been improved.

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bailey (5,856,042) and Kronfli et al (6,409,867) disclose cells with polymer electrode and indicate that paper separators may be used.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William T. Leader whose telephone number is 571-272-1245. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Thursdays and alternate Fridays, 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King, can be reached on 571-272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


William Leader
March 1, 2005


ROY KING
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700